

## Finding of No Significant Impact

NEPA Number DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2015-0002-EA  
El Capitan Allotment Grazing Lease Renewal  
Lease number 4504

The Bureau of Land Management prepared an Environmental Assessment (DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2015-0002-EA) which analyzed the effects of renewing the grazing lease on the El Capitan allotment for a period of ten (10) years. The Proposed Action consists of the renewal of the grazing lease for the El Capitan allotment for a period of 10 years with the following Terms and Conditions:

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Pasture Type	Number of Livestock	Type of Livestock	Year Begin	Year End	% Public Land	Type of Use	AUMs
4504	El Capitan	Upland	5	CATTLE	3/1	2/28 (year-long)	100	ACTIVE	60

Standard conditions.

If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization, any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, the lessee/permittee shall stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the Authorized Officer of the discovery. The lessee/permittee shall continue to protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the Authorized Officer that operations may resume.

Maximum allowable use levels will be as follows:

- 40% of the current year's growth on key forage species (UG-EIS p. 1-9, GM36)

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment (EA), and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, described below, I have determined that the proposed action with the design specifications will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

### Context

The Proposed action would occur on the El Capitan allotment, which is located approximately 17 miles south of Globe, Arizona. State Route (SR) 77 traverses the allotment from north to south. The allotment contains 680 acres of public lands. The allotment is currently authorized for grazing permitted use of 60 AUMs, for a total of 5 head of cattle yearlong.

## Intensity

The following discussion is organized around the 10 Significance Criteria described at 40 CFR 1508.27. The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

1. **Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse:** The EA considered potential effects of the Proposed Action. None of the effects are beyond the range of effects analyzed in the Safford District Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved January 1992.
2. **Degree of effect on public health and safety:** No effect.
3. **Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetland, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas:** There will be no effect to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetland, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.
4. **Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial:** The effects of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment are the same as they have been in the area for the last 20 years and have not been highly controversial.
5. **Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk:** The analysis in the EA has not shown that the effects of the proposed action would involve unique or unknown risks to the human environment.
6. **Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration:** This project neither establishes a precedent nor represents a decision in principle about future actions.
7. **Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts:** This action is not related to other actions that would cumulatively cause significant negative actions.
8. **Degree to which the action may adversely affect district, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources:** The project was reviewed for effects to cultural resources and there were no cultural resources found that would be effected in the project area. If cultural resources are discovered during construction activities, construction will

be halted and BLM Archaeology staff will be contacted so that construction personnel can receive instructions on how to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts.

- 9. Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat:** Wildlife species that are listed, proposed, or candidates for listing, as threatened or endangered by the USFWS under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act and that occur or potentially occur within the El Capitan allotment include the Lesser long-nosed bat, the Arizona Hedgehog Cactus, the Ocelot, and the Jaguar. The Sonoran Desert tortoise is a candidate species that also occurs or potentially occurs within the allotment. No adverse impacts to T&E, proposed, or candidate species are expected from the Proposed Action.
- 10. Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local environmental protection law:** The Proposed Action does not threaten to violate any law.

/s/ Karen Simms 10/2/15

Field Manager, Tucson Field Office

Date